

ACCOUNT-BASED ELECTRONIC MUSIC ACCESS SYSTEM AND METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention comprises methods and systems for obtaining music in electronic form. In one embodiment, a consumer establishes a single account which may be used to pay for music content. The consumer accesses a music content provider or broker, such as by establishing a communication link via the Internet between their computer and a server of the music content provider. The consumer is permitted to select from content which is available from a plurality of independent third party sources, such as the music services offered by a number of different record labels. In one embodiment, the music content provider indicates the lowest cost source for desired content. The consumer pays the music provider for the desired content, such as using funds associated with the account. Data representing the music is then transmitted to the consumer.

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